



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 5

Meeting Date: August 25, 2006

Meeting Location: Tippecanoe County Office
Department of Child Services
111 N 4th Street
Lafayette, IN

Council Members Present: Gilbert Smith, Regional Manager; Janis Mullen, Director Carroll and Clinton County DCS; Elva James, Director Benton County DCS; Barbara Bedrick, Director White County DCS; Judge Rader by Proxy Linda Akers, Warren County; Cathy Booe, FCM Supervisor; Kathy Shank, FCM Carroll County; and Judge Henderson, Fountain County.

Council Members Absent: Coleen Hamrick, CASA Director, Tippecanoe County; Judge Rader, Warren County; and Deann Beery, Foster Parent.

Others In Attendance: Cindy Mason, Director Fountain County DCS; Jackie Agee, Regional Supervisor, Whites Residential; Rick Crawley and dianna Huddleston of Wabash Valley Hospital; and Rod Barabee of Wernle.

<h3>Meeting Minutes</h3>

Meeting Called to Order at: 8:30 am

1. Gil Smith said Community Partners is moving forward and the new contract with Wabash Valley Hospital will be signed soon. dianna Huddleston said they will be up and running by January 1st at the latest with Howard Community sub-contracting in Clinton County. They are currently working on a referral form and a letter to go out to the families. She will email the referral form to Gil. They will probably do one for the agency and one for community wide. Rick Crawley said they would like to begin services in each county as each one is ready and asked if they would have to wait until the whole Region is ready. Gil will contact Roth and Associates to be sure Wabash Valley can continue to claim start up money and also bill for services in another county.
Elva James asked if families could be referred now if they are Medicaid eligible. Community Partners will not be Medicaid so there will be a

different process for Medicaid families. They may be referred to other agencies. Coordinating services may also be needed because there may not always be mental health issues to be dealt with.

There will be home based and school based services in every county. Every school has a counselor. It is hoped that the counselors have made themselves familiar to the Department of Child Services but if they have not yet, they will.

Gil stated that the start up figures for Community Partners has not changed but the funds available have increased due to the additional \$4 million. He will send the updated figures by email to RSC members.

Gil stated that the State is offering each Regional Services Council \$1000 to pay someone to assess the Region and asked if we need to do this. Several members agreed that this is not much money for someone to complete such a task though this is something to think about as it will come up again.

Gil said he received a copy of a presentation from MB Lippold on Systems of Care. He stated there is some overlap of services but Community Partners is obviously not Systems of Care. dianna Huddleston said that the original Community Partners plan looked a lot like Systems of Care but since then it looks less and less so. Barb Bedrick stated that the State should have let the Systems of Care people in the counties know what Community Partners was.

2. IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project – \$9000 allotted per child/slot.

Statewide 75% are eligible kids and 25% are non-eligible kids. Gil stated that there were 826 Waiver slots statewide being used as of April . A couple of weeks ago there were 999 slots and when MB Lippold started her new position there were 1013 slots being utilized. Our Region put in more slots than any other but he was on vacation and no one reported them to MB. Our Region has done very well.

3. Voluntary Service Case Phase Down – Voluntary services may continue to be offered until April 2007. A monthly report must be done on how many services are offered, cases closed and how much they have been reduced each month. If they are sending people to Community Partners that is great but keep track. By June 2007 there should be no voluntary services. There is a three month limit for voluntary services and Cindy Mason brought up the fact that in the case of sexual molest, services may be needed for up to a year and asked how this will be handled. dianna Huddleston said that a referral would start out as child safety but after three months would go to Community Partners. Linda Akers said she is hoping Wabash Valley will develop a specialist in sexual molest and dianna stated that they do have some therapists who are comfortable with these cases. Rick Crawley said he will do some research on which counselors can do this and find the resources

for it. A specialist would need to travel to the counties because they wouldn't be able to afford one in every county. Rick said not everyone can be run through Systems of Care. The hard cases will go through Systems of Care and the more routine ones through Community Partners. He said that they have received no more money for charity cases and the counties are referring more charity cases.

Barb Bedrick noted that we can't send cases to Wabash Valley if there is a waiting list; we'll have to provide services elsewhere and have funding for those services.

4. Jan Mullen – Mommy and Me is a program that has been in Clinton County for 12 years. It is offered by Purdue University Extension Office and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Clinton County. The Purdue University Extension Office will be handling the grant money. This program meets the same day and time each month and deals with issues such as self-esteem, domestic violence and nutrition. This program serves people 21 years old and younger and has 14 or 15 babies at the meetings Jan is asking for \$15,700 to help with brochures, child care needs, computer scholarships, car seats and supplies for meetings. Motion to approve was made by Linda Akers as proxy for Judge Rader, seconded by Barb Bedrick. Motion was approved.
5. Barb Bedrick has had a request for replacement “Real Care Babies” from the Frontier High School. She had purchased the ones they are using now. They have been well used by the school and have been repaired but do not always function accurately. She would like to buy five replacement babies for them. She would also like to buy the White County DCS office a drug affected baby and a Fetal Alcohol Syndrome mannequin to use with pregnant women who are using drugs or alcohol. The total cost for these would be \$3,330.08. Also, White County has recently started a System of Care and is expecting to begin referrals about September 1, 2006. Barb would like to donate \$500 to a flex fund for the SOC to pay for miscellaneous items to remove barriers. Their probation office has agreed to match this money for the fund. Motion to approve was made by Elva James, seconded by Judge Henderson. Motion was approved.
6. Cindy Mason – Fountain County Mentoring funding that was approved out of Child Welfare Service dollars ends 9/30/06 and they need \$18,000 to carry them from 10/1 – 12/31/06. The reason this amount is so high is because their insurance comes due during this period. They have a fund raiser planned and are trying to become more self-sustaining. Their goal is to have 20 mentors. They currently have 17. As expenses arise they will send claims to be paid and it is possible they won't use all of the funds. The Fountain – Warren Bi-County Council of Social Services contract ended in June and they need \$8000 for 7/1 – 12/31/06. This money will go to

someone to coordinate services. The Council meets every other month and there is training in the month that they don't meet. Motion to approve was made by Barb Bedrick, seconded by Jan Mullen. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Date, Time and Location: Friday, September 29, 2006 at 8:30 am at the Tippecanoe County Department of Child Services.

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:55 am.